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**syngenta**

Syngenta Biotechnology, Inc.  
Patent Department  
P.O. Box 12257  
3054 Cornwallis Road  
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709-2257  
Tel. 919 765-5071  
Fax 919 541 8689

Attention of:	Jon Epperson	From:	Mary Kakefuda
Company:	USPTO	Telephone:	919-765-5071
Address:		Fax:	919-541-8689
Fax:	703-872-9306	Date:	Jan 7, 2004
No. of pages (including cover sheet)	8	Re:	09/879,279

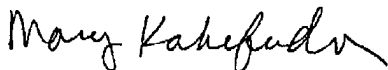
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Dear Examiner Epperson,

Attached for filing in 09/879,279 are the following:

1. Response.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Kakefuda  
Reg. No. 39,245  
Attorney for Applicants

**CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE**

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being sent by facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on the date shown below to the fax number (703) 872-9306: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicants: DACE et al.

Examiner: Jon D. Epperson

Serial No. 09/879,279

Group Art Unit: 1639

Filed: June 12, 2001

For: IN VITRO CAPTURE OF NUCLEIC ACIDS VIA MODIFIED  
OLIGONUCLEOTIDES AND MAGNETIC BEADS

Attorney Docket No: 60050USNP

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111**

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated December 17, 2003, please consider the following remarks.